REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. By this Amendment, no claims are cancelled, claim 1 is amended and no new claims are added.

In the Office Action dated May 2, 2007, the Examiner has rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada, U.S. Patent Pub. 2003/0076973 A1. The Examiner has also rejected dependent claims 2-27 under 35 § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada, in view of one or more additional issued U.S. patents.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections to the claims, but in an effort to move prosecution of the application forward, has amended independent claim 1 to further differentiate the present invention from the cited reference Yamada.

Yamada teaches diffusing sound signals in a HRTF (Head Related Transfer Function) environment which is a non-reflective environment (see YAMADA paragraphs 95-96). However, Yamada does not teach or suggest diffusing the sound signals in a reflective environment in order to simulate the transformation applied to the sound signal in this reflective environment, as recited by newly amended claim 1.

The present invention relates to a method for simulating the transformation applied to sound signals diffused in a reflecting environment. This transformation depends on the geometry and the acoustic parameters of the environment in which the sound signals are diffused (see paragraphs 52-54 of the Application).

In order to achieve this simulation, sound signals (right and left) are diffused in a reflective environment by two speakers, and detected by an acoustic detector. Then transfer functions (corresponding to the transformation of the sound signals in the reflective environment) are computed by comparing the electric sound signals detected and the electric sound signals diffused initially.

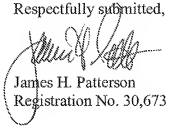
These transfer functions are then applied to electric sound signals in order to obtain processed electric sound signals, so that when these processed sound signals are diffused it seems that they are diffused in the reflective environment corresponding to the transfer functions. In a way the transfer functions represent "the pattern" of the reflective environment; these transfer functions being different from a reflective environment to another.

Because Yamada does not teach or suggest all of the limitations recited in newly amended claim 1, including simulating electric signals that are diffused in a reflective environment, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claim 1, and of claims 2-27 which depend from claim 1, be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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